

REMARKS

The Office action mailed on 25 August 2004 (Paper No. 08232004) has been carefully considered, and clarification is requested as follows:

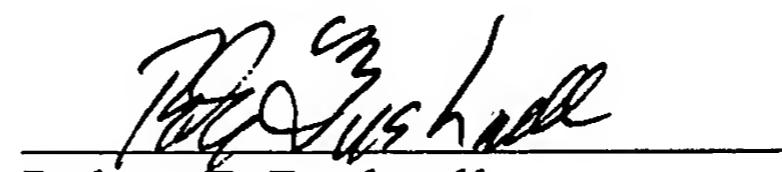
Page 4, lines 3-4 of the Office action states that “[c]laims 13-16, 18-21 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dean et al.” However, the Office action does not contain any statement of detailed reasons or grounds for rejecting claims 23 thru 26.

In addition, page 6, line 1 - page 7, line 15 of the Office action contains a detailed statement of reasons for rejecting claims 42-50, but these claims are not included in the list of claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 on page 4 (lines 3-4). Thus, the statutory basis for rejecting claims 42 thru 50 is not clearly stated.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests clarification relative to claims 23 thru 26 and 42 thru 50, and Applicant further requests that the period for response to the Office action be restarted as of the date of mailing of the clarifying communication.

If there are any questions, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney at the below listed local telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



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